the banker on whom it is drawn otherwise than to the banker to whom it is crossed or his agent for collection. These provisions further provide that if a banker credits the proceeds of a crossed cheque to someone other than the payee he would in case the title to a cheque proves defective incur liability to the true owner of the cheque by reason only of having received such payment.

Impact of liberalisation on gold prices and its smuggling

563. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Mini'-ter of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the prices of gold before and after liberalisation of gold import policy and how these compare with the international price of gold;

(b) what is the amount of gold smuggled into India during the period six months prior to liberalisation of gold import policy;

(c) what is the amount of Gold smuggled into India since liberalisation of gold import policy and what is the percentage of decline in the smuggling as result thereof;

(d) what is the number of persons apprehended for smuggling of gold be the Enforcement Authorities since May, 1992 indicating comparative figures for each quarter during 1991; and

(e) what steps are contemplated to check the smuggling of gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Average monthly price of primary gold in the Bombay and London markets, for each of the months of 1992 (from January to June) are given in the table below:—

Average monthly price of gold

(In Rs. per 10 grams)

1992	Bcmbay M&iket	London Market
January	 4910	2995
February	 4708	2987
March	 4245	2878
April	4465	2830
May	 4173	2821
June	4109	2847

(b) and (c) Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not possible to quantify the amount of gold smuggled into India during the period of 6 months prior to liberalisation of the gold import policy and thereafter. However, the Customs authorities have seized approximately 1684 kgs. of gold during the 6 months period from September, 1991 to Feb. 1992 and seized 832 kgs. of gold approximately during the period from March to June, 1992.

(d) The number of persons arrested for being involved in the smuggling: of gold by various enforcement agencies in

May, 1992 and during each quarter of 1991 are given in the table below:—

	No. of persons arrested
January to March, 1991	349
April to June, 1991	300
July to September, 1991	201
October to Decemher, 1991	159

and will be laid on the Table the House).

(e) The Customs authorities remain alert against smuggling including that of gold. Sophisticated equipment such as X-ray baggage machines and metal detectors are being increasingly utilised. The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and close coordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling.

Reserve Bank of India guidelines (or non-banking financial companies

564. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Wil1 the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has recently, an nounced fresh guidelines for non-banking (financial companies;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the non-banking financial companies would be benefited as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRl DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBJ) have reported that they have recently amended their direct tions issued to non-banking financial companies. The important amendments are as under:—

(i) The non-banking financial con panies can now pay interest or con pound interest at monthly rates.

(ii) Deposits can now be accepte by non-banking financial companies i joint names not exceeding three wit clauses like "Either or survivor' "Anyone or Survivor" etc.

(iii) Interest at a rate not exceedin 11 percent per annum can be paid deposits are withdrawn premature after 12 months but before 24 months

(iv) If a company is engaged botl depositor, the deposit can be repai prematurely to the surviving depositor his legal heir with interest at the coi tracted rate.

(v)If a company is engaged bot in hire purchase finance and equii ment leasing activities, its business i both these activities will be takei together in determining its classificatioi

(c) and (d) RBI have reported ths the measures relating to deposits provid greater flexibility for depositors an thereby facilitate deposit mobilisation.